# The Nanopore Inner-Sphere Enhancement (NISE) Effect and its Role in Sodium Retention

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#### **Presentation Outline**

I. The Nanopore Inner-Sphere Enhancement (NISE) Effect

II. **Investigation** of the NISE Effect for cation adsorption on zeolites

III. **Confirmation** of the NISE Effect using NMR / EPR Spectroscopy and Calorimetry

IV. Application of the NISE Effect in a Column Study

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Isomorphous substitution creates mineral charge imbalance



http://www.tankonyvtar.hu/en/tartalom/tamop425/0032\_talajtan/images/new/17.bmp

Negative charge imbalances balanced by adsorbing cations



Groundwater



Negatively charged mineral surface



The Na and Ca both want to adsorb, but they use different mechanisms

Outer-Sphere Adsorption Inner-Sphere Adsorption





# Ion Exchange ker ions move from surface to so ion Na Na Ca<sup>2+</sup>

#### Nanopores

- Nanopores change the rules of ion adsorption
  / ion exchange
  - Ionic radius and hydration strength become very important

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# **Cation Adsorption on Zeolites**

#### Zeolites are nanoporous aluminosilicate minerals







<u>ZSM-5</u>: Medium pores 0.51x0.55 nm 0.53x0.56 nm



Mordenite: Large & Small pores 0.70x0.65 nm 0.26x0.57 nm

The dimensions of the pores are predictable and fixed.
 This makes zeolites ideal for studying pore size effects.

# Cation Adsorption on Zeolites

- Adsorption studies were conducted on three zeolites to confirm the NISE model predictions
  - Zeolites mixed in aqueous solution with H<sub>2</sub>O, NaOH, and HCl. CaCl<sub>2</sub> and KCl added to some mixtures as competitors.
  - Mixtures were agitated 18-20 hours, then centrifuged.
  - Liquid separated, analyzed for pH and [Na], [Ca], and [K]



Hydration energy values from Hummer et al., 1996. Ionic diameter values from Schulthess, 2005.

# Zeolite Y (large pores)



# ZSM-5 (Medium pores)



Affinity Sequence: K > Na >> Ca

#### Mordenite (large & small pores)



Affinity Sequence: Ca ~ K > Na

# The NISE Effect



Adsorption studies of Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, and Ca<sup>2+</sup> showed:

- Large pores All 3 cations weak
- Medium pores Monovalent cations strong, divalent cation weak
- Small pores All 3 cations strong

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# Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)













The atoms return to their equilibrium states.

# NMR Spectra



# NMR and Divalent Ions

- NMR can't analyze metallic elements
- NMR works based on an element's precession frequency.
  - Difficult to analyze for any of the Group 2 elements due to low precession frequencies
- Need to address adsorption mechanisms of divalent ions on zeolites to completely prove the NISE theory



# **EPR Spectroscopy**

- EPR spectroscopy works like NMR, but on the electrons instead of the nucleus
- The study used a Bruker 380E 9.5 GHz X-band spectrometer with a WD14838 probe on Mn<sup>2+</sup>





RATORY



Adentition utimal m<sup>-2</sup>

# Summary of NMR/EPR

- NMR showed outer-sphere Na adsorption on zeolite Y & inner-sphere Na adsorption on ZSM-5 and mordenite
- EPR showed outer-sphere Mn adsorption on zeolite Y and ZSM-5 & inner-sphere Mn adsorption on mordenite
  - These data match the predictions of the NISE model

# Calorimetry

- Calorimetry measures the heat of reactions
- Flow calorimetry can compare the heat of exchange between Na and Ca on the zeolite minerals









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- Sodic soils affect a significant area of the US. Each dot below represents 10,000 acres of sodic soil.
  - ND estimates losses due to sodic soils of \$50-\$90 million per year
- Sodic soils strongly retain Na to the exclusion of many other ions
- Sodic soils are clay-rich & 2:1 interlayers can reach NISE sizes



#### How strongly is Na retained in sodic soils?



- Initial desorption experiments on sodic soils showed a Na desorption edge at pH 7 (very weakly held)
- This was likely due to high liquid to solid ratio in batch



- As water fills clay interlayers, they expand
- Batch experiments have a high water to solids ratio
- If clays expand, any NISE effect will cease



 $http://lh3.ggpht.com/\_6LWjP0sZ22w/S4stYiWRxTI/AAAAAAAHgA/QYhLzCxACso/Smectite\%20Expansion\%5B4\%5D.jpg$ 

- Sodic soils tend to be dense and tightly packed
- This would tend to prevent clay interlayer expansion
- A column study can attempt to recreate these conditions

# Column Study

- Stainless steel column filled with sand mixed with a Na-montmorillonite. Column is pressurized so clay cannot expand as easily.
- Na retention measured at various clay contents



# Column Study

- [Na] desorbed remained mostly flat with ↑ [clay]
- [Ca] desorbed dropped sharply between 25% and 30% clay
- Pump failed above 30% clay, likely due to low hydraulic cond.



#### Conclusions

- The NISE effect offers a new model for explaining counterintuitive ion exchange reactions inside small confining environments such as zeolite nanopores
- The predictions of the NISE model have been directly verified through NMR, EPR, and calorimetry
- Attempts to replicate the NISE effect with 2:1 clay interlayers in a column study showed interesting preliminary results. More work is required in this area

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